The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Per varios Casus, per tot Discrimina Rerum,
Tendimus. —— —— *Virg.*

From *Thursday November* 9. to *Saturday November* 11. 1710.

From my own Apartment, November 10.

I WAS last Night visited by a Friend of mine who has an inexhaustible Fund of Discourse, and never fails to entertain his Company with a Variety of Thoughts and Hints that are altogether new and uncommon. Whether it were in Complaisance to my Way of Living, or his real Opinion, he advanced the following Paradox, That it required much greater Talents to fill up and become a retired Life, than a Life of Business. Upon this Occasion he raillied very agreeably the busie Men of the Age, who only valued themselves for being in Motion, and passing through a Series of trifling and insignificant Actions. In the Heat of his Discourse, seeing a Piece of Money lying on my Table, I defie, says he, any of these active Persons to produce half the Adventures that this Twelvepenny-Piece has been engaged in, were it possible for him to give us an Account of his Life.

My Friend's Talk made so odd an Impression upon my Mind, that soon after I was a-Bed I fell insensibly into a most unaccountable *Reverie*, that had neither Moral nor Design in it, and cannot be so properly called a Dream as a Delirium.

Methoughts the Shilling that lay upon the Table reared it self upon its Edge, and turning the Face towards me, opened its Mouth, and in a soft Silver Sound gave me the following Account of his Life and Adventures:

I was born, says he, on the Side of a Mountain, near a little Village of *Peru*, and made a Voyage to *England* in an Ingot, under the Convoy of Sir *Francis Drake*. I was, soon after my Arrival, taken out of my *Indian* Habit, refined, naturalized, and put into the *British* Mode, with the Face of Queen *Elizabeth* on one Side, and the Arms of the Country on the other. Being thus equipped, I found in me a wonderful Inclination to ramble, and visit all the Parts of the new World into which I was brought. The People very much favoured my natural Disposition, and shifted me so fast from Hand to Hand, that before I was Five Years old, I had travelled into almost every Corner of the Nation. But in the Beginning of my Sixth Year, to my unspeakable Grief, I fell into the Hands of a miserable old Fellow, who clapped me into an Iron Chest, where I found Five Hundred more of my own Quality who lay under the same Confinement. The only Relief we had, was to be taken out and counted over in the fresh Air every Morning and Evening. After an Imprisonment of several Years, we heard some Body knocking at our Chest, and breaking it open with an Hammer. This we found was the old Man's Heir, who, as his Father lay a dying, was so good as to come to our Release: he separated us that very Day. What was the Fate of my Companions, I know not: As for my self, I was sent to the Apothecary's Shop for a Pint of Sack. The Apothecary gave me to an Herb-Woman, the Herb-Woman to a Butcher, the Butcher to a Brewer, and the Brewer to his Wife, who made a Present of me to a Nonconformist Preacher. After this Manner I made my Way merrily through the World; for, as I told you before, we Shillings love nothing so much as travelling. I sometimes fetched in a Shoulder of Mutton, sometimes a Play-Book, and often had the Satisfaction to treat a Templer at a Twelvepenny Ordinary, or carry him with Three Friends to *Westminster-Hall*.

In the Midst of this pleasant Progress which I made from Place to Place, I was arrested by a superstitious old Woman, who shut me up in a greasy Purse, in Pursuance of a foolish Saying, That while she kept a Queen *Elizabeth*'s Shilling about her, she should never be without Money. I continued here a close Prisoner for many Months, till at last I was exchanged for Eight and Forty Farthings.

I thus rambled from Pocket to Pocket till the Beginning of the Civil Wars, when, to my Shame be it spoken, I was employed in raising Soldiers against the King: For being of a very tempting Breadth, a Serjeant made Use of me to inveigle Country Fellows, and list them in the Service of the Parliament.

As soon as he had made one Man sure, his Way was to oblige him to take a Shilling of a more homely Figure, and then practise the same Trick upon another. Thus I continued doing great Mischief to the Crown, till my Officer chancing one Morning to walk abroad earlier than ordinary, sacrificed me to his Pleasures, and made Use of me to seduce a Milk-Maid. This Wench bent me, and gave me to her Sweetheart, applying more properly than she intended the usual Form of, *To my Love and from my Love*. This ungenerous Gallant marrying her within few Days after, pawned me for a Dram of Brandy, and drinking me out next Day, I was beaten flat with an Hammer, and again set a running.

After many Adventures, which it would be tedious to relate, I was sent to a young Spendthrift, in Company with the Will of his deceased Father. The young Fellow, who I found was very extravagant, gave great Demonstrations of Joy at the receiving the Will; but opening it, he found himself disinherited and cut off from the Possession of a fair Estate, by Vertue of my being made a Present to him. This put him into such a Passion, that after having taken me in his Hand, and cursed me, he squirred me away from him as far as he could fling me. I chanced to light in an unfrequented Place under a dead Wall, where I lay undiscovered and useless during the Usurpation of *Oliver Cromwell*.

About

About a Year after the King's Return, a poor Cavalier that was walking there about Dinner-time fortunately cast his Eye upon me, and, to the great Joy of us both, carried me to a Cook's Shop, where he dined upon me, and drank the King's Health. When I came again into the World, I found that I had been happier in my Retirement than I thought, having probably by that Means escaped wearing a monstrous Pair of Breeches.

Being now of great Credit and Antiquity, I was rather looked upon as a Medal than an ordinary Coin; for which Reason a Gamester laid hold of me, and converted me to a Counter, having got together some Dozens of us for that Use. We led a melancholy Life in his Possession, being busy at those Hours wherein Current Coin is at rest, and partaking the Fate of our Master, being in a few Moments valued at a Crown, a Pound, or a Sixpence, according to the Situation in which the Fortune of the Cards placed us. I had at length the good Luck to see my Master break, by which Means I was again sent abroad under my primitive Denomination of a Shilling.

I shall pass over many other Accidents of less Moment, and hasten to that fatal Catastrophe when I fell into the Hands of an Artist who conveyed me under Ground, and with an unmerciful Pair of Sheers cut off my Tittles, clipped my Brims, retrenched my Shape, rubbed me to my inmost Ring, and, in short, so spoiled and pillaged me, that he did not leave me worth a Groat. You may think what a Confusion I was in to see my self thus curtailed and disfigured. I should have been ashamed to have shown my Head, had not all my old Acquaintance been reduced to the same shameful Figure, excepting some few that were punched through the Belly. In the midst of this general Calamity, when every Body thought our Misfortune irretrievable, and our Case desperate, we were thrown into the Furnace together, and (as it often happens with Cities rising out of a Fire) appeared with greater Beauty and Lustre than we could ever boast of before. What has happened to me since this Change of Sex which you now see, I shall take some other Opportunity to relate. In the mean time I shall only repeat Two Adventures, as being very extraordinary, and neither of them having ever happened to me above once in my Life. The First was, my being in a Poet's Pocket, who was so taken with the Brightness and Novelty of my Appearance, that it gave Occasion to the finest Burlesque Poem in the *British* Language, Entitled from me, *The Splendid Shilling*. The Second Adventure, which I must not omit, happened to me in the Year 1703, when I was given away in Charity to a blind Man; but indeed this was by a Mistake, the Person who gave me having heedlesly thrown me into the Hat among a Pennyworth of Farthings.

Advertisements.

☞ The THIRD Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Isaac Bickerstaff Esq; on a large Letter in Octavo, being almost finish'd; such as please to subscribe for it on a Royal Paper, to keep up their Sets, are desired to send in their Names to Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, or John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where the First and Second Volumes are to be deliver'd.

ALL Sorts of fine Silks and Mercery Goods for Blank Lottery Tickets, at 3 l. a Ticket, and sold as cheap as for Specie, at the Eagle and Child on Ludgate-Hill.

AT the GREAT WHEAT-SHEAF painted upon a Copper Plate, next the Bell-Savage Inn upon Ludgate-Hill, is sold all Sorts of rich Foreign Silks, with Gold and Silver Brocades. Likewise Plain and Flower'd Velvets for Gowns and Petticoats, and Coach Linings; with all Sorts of Silk Morning-Gowns, for Blank Lottery Tickets, at as high a Price as any Person shall give for them, and the abovesaid Goods as cheap as for Specie.

MOrning-Gowns for Men and Women, of all Sorts of rich Brocaded Silks, Japann'd Sattins, and great Variety of other rich Silks, Stuffs and Callicoes, being a fresh Parcel of choice Goods, of Samuel Edwards and Richard Hackett, Mercers, are to be sold at very low Rates, at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up the Pair of Stairs, over against the Horse at Charing-Cross; the Price being set on each Gown.

*** In a few Days will be publish'd for the Month of October, Atlas Geographus, or a compleat System of Geography, Ancient and Modern. This Month finishes all Europe (except Great Britain and Ireland), with a good Frontispiece, large Index, Subscribers Names, &c. so that then the whole may be bound up in a Vol. in which is about 100 new Maps, Cuts, Senex's Tables, &c. The next Month begins Asia, in which will be about 50 new Maps, Cuts, and Tables, and shall all be contain'd in one Vol. Printed by John Nutt in the Savoy, and sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall: Where may be had compleat Sets for Europe, or any odd Months. Note, Those that desire it may have the whole compleat, with the Maps coloured.

A Course of Experiments, in order to demonstrate the Laws of the Gravitation of Fluids; the various Properties of the Air in Relation to its Weight, Spring, Necessity of its Presence in the Conservation of Life, and Production of Flame and Sound: Together with several new Experiments touching Light and Electricity, produceable on the Attrition of Bodies: Will begin on Monday next the 15th Instant at Mr. Hauksbee's in Hind-Court against Water-lane, Fleetstreet; and be continu'd every Thursday and Monday following till finish'd: Where Subscriptions are taken in, and printed Accounts of the whole are given.

CHocolate made of the best Cracco Nuts, 3 s. a Pound; Chocolate made of the best of other Cocoa Nuts, some Cracco, 2 s. 6 d. a Pound; both very fine Ground: Chocolate with Sugar, a Third Penny cheaper than all Nut. Sold by Rob. Fary, at the Bell in Gracechurch-street, near Gracechurch, Druggist.

AT the Golden Lion in Drury-Lane, against Short's-Gardens, are Two Offices for Insuring on Marriages: The first Office pays 2 s. for a Policy, and 1 s. for a Claim when made, and the Advantage is 100 l. if full. The other Office pays 5 s. Entrance and Policy, and 5 s. for a Claim. The Advantage is 500 l. if full, or otherwise proportionable to the Number of Subscribers in both. The Director settles an Estate Freehold of his own of more than 1000 l. Value for Security to the Society.

IN Bromley-street in Drury-lane, at the Blue-Ball, there lives Mrs. Fenwick, a Clergy-man's Widow, who thro' God's Assistance is able to cure Cancers, the King's Evil, and the Gravel. She hath already cured great Numbers of Persons of those Distempers with very great Success. All Persons that have Occasion, resorting to her, may have further Satisfaction. She is willing to cure the Poor Gratis.

THE Sale of the rich Bed, Hangings and Plate, being near full, it is resolved to be drawn on Thursday the 30th Instant: Therefore the Adventurers are desired to meet on Wednesday next, at 5 in the Afternoon, at the Fountain Tavern in the Strand, in order to chuse Trustees to see it fairly drawn, and appoint a Place for Drawing. All Persons that design to become Adventurers, are desired to take out their Tickets speedily: They are to be had, with Proposals, at Mr. Flemming's, Goldsmith, against St. Dunstan's Church, Fleetstreet; Mr. Lillie's at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings; St. James's Coffee-house; at Mr. Carpenter's, Merchant, in Clements-lane, Lombard-street, and other Places formerly published and mentioned at large in the Proposals.

ROBERT Peters's Sale of 1000 l. for Half a Crown, being near full, is to be drawn at Sadlers-Hall in Cheapside on Thursday the 16th Instant. All Persons are desired to be as speedy as possible in taking out Tickets, which are to be had at Mr. Marret's at the Golden-Ball in Devonshire-street without Bishopsgate, Mr. Measure's at the Dial near Serjeants-Inn in Fleetstreet; Mr. Lillie's, Perfumer, the Corner of Beauford-buildings; Mr. Hill, Goldsmith, in Covent-Garden; Mr. Andrew's, Glover, in Charles-Court in the Strand; Rice's Coffee-house in the Hay-market; Child's in St. Paul's Church-yard; George's in Piccadilly, and at the Houses Numb. 14, and 28, in Gloucester-street; where the Tickets are rolling up, and the Plate is to be seen.

MRs. Symonds's Sale of heavy Plate, and other valuable Goods, which are to be seen at the Naked-Boy and Coat in Henrietta-street, being near full, will be drawn on Monday the 27th of this Instant November, at the Great Room in York-Buildings. All Gentlemen and Ladies are desired to be speedy in taking out Tickets, which are to be had at the House abovementioned; at Mr. Sybell's, a Silkman, near the Conduit in Cheapside; Mr. Lillie's, Perfumer, the Corner of Beauford-Buildings; Cross's Coffee-house in Cary-street, Lincolns-Inn-fields; Mr. Bates's at the Hat and Star, a Cane-shop, in Bookseller-Row in St. Paul's Church-yard; and all the other Places mentioned in the Proposals.

MR. Luthridge's Sixpenny Sale of Goods, at the Toy-shop over against Norfolk-street in the Strand, of all Prizes, and no Blanks, is to be drawn this Day; and for the Encouragement of the Adventurer, those that do not like their Prizes shall have half their Money returned. The Goods are, a Silver Watch, a Silver Punch Strainer, a Gold Ring, a Silver Dram Cup, several Dozens of small Silver Spoons, Silver Seals, Silver Thimbles, China and Tunbridge Ware, and other Goods of Value.

THE famous Chymical Quintessence of Bohee-Tea and Chocolate together, the first of that kind ever made; in which are essentially inherent the true Vertues of both Tea and Nut, insomuch that a few Drops of it gives more Nourishment than 20 Dishes of either, and is therefore the highest Restorative in Decays of Nature, Consumptive Habits, inward Weaknesses, Wastings and Coughs, Asthma's, Poorness of Blood, &c. invigorating and strengthening Nature beyond all Food or Physick. Sold for 5 s. the Bottle, at Mr. Lawrence's Toyshop, at the Griffin, the Corner of Bucklersbury, Poultry.